

REMARKS

By the present amendment Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled. Claims 3, 5, 8-22 and 24-26 had been previously withdrawn but remain pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The undersigned wishes to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview on June 27, 2007. The proposed claim amendments were discussed in light of the cited art. The proposed amendments to claims 1 and 23 were also discussed. The Examiner commented on the cited but not applied Matthews reference, as well as the Pinker and Bhat references, and the location of the center plug relative to the nozzle was also discussed. No specific decision as to the allowability of the application was provided.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 23 were rejected as being anticipated by either Pinker (U.S. 6,415,598) or Bhat et al. (U.S. 4,288,984). Merely in the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application, the limitations of "objected to" claim 6 have been added to claim 1. This is believed to render this rejection moot.

With regard to independent claim 23, very minor amendments have been made to positively recite the operation of "disposing a center plug adjacent said primary nozzle", and "such that said a full length of said center plug is disposed within said

primary nozzle.” This limitation somewhat parallels that added to claim 1, and for this reason it is believed that this renders claim 23 allowable over both Pinker and Bhat.

New claim 27 includes the limitations of previously presented claim 1 but with the limitations of “objected to” claim 7 added therein. Thus, it is believed that this also renders the rejections in view of Pinker and Bhat moot.

For these reasons it is respectfully requested that the rejections in view of Pinker and Bhat be withdrawn.

COMMENTS ON PREVIOUSLY RESTRICTED OUT CLAIMS

The undersigned also wishes to briefly comment that a number of dependent claims had been previously withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species. Specifically, dependent claims 3-5 depend from claim 1, and are presently of “withdrawn” status. If the Examiner determines that claim 1 is now allowable, it is assumed that the Examiner will then also allow these claims as well.

From a review of other “withdrawn” claims, the undersigned notes that claim 22, if written in independent form, would appear to be allowable as well. The undersigned most respectfully requests the Examiner to re-review claim 22 and to re-consider the decision to restrict out this species, in view of the similarity of this claim to presently amended claim 1. Including dependent claim 22, in independent form, in the present application if/when the present application is passed to allowance would save significant expense to the Applicant (i.e., The Boeing Company) and would help to limit the number of divisional applications that The Boeing Company might otherwise be forced to file in

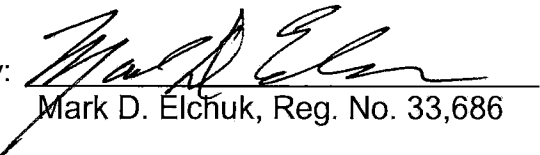
an effort to cover the various embodiments disclosed in the present application. The Examiner's careful consideration of this request is most respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 28, 2007

By: 
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